

REMARKS

The undersigned thanks the Examiner for the telephone interview conducted on January 12, 2004.

Claims 15-18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement.

Claim 15 is amended as discussed at the telephone interview, i.e. “non-straight boundary” is changed to -boundary- because the Examiner stated that “non-straight boundary” was confusing. Claim 15 is supported by Applicant’s Figs. 4 and 7, as explained in Applicant’s Amendment filed on September 5, 2003, at page 12. Note also the specification, page 3, lines 15-17.

Claim 16 is amended in a similar manner.

Claim 17 is supported by Figs. 4 and 6 and the specification, page 3, lines 24-29 as follows:

wherein the clear region of the first mask (**the mask Fig. 4**) comprises two clear sub-regions (**two rectangles 410M, one above another**) separated by a non-clear gap (**430M**); and

the clear region of the second mask (**clear regions 610 of the mask of Fig. 6**) covers the position of the non-clear gap (**430M**) and overlaps the two clear sub-regions (**410M**) adjacent to the gap.

Claim 18 is supported by Figs. 4 and 6 and the specification, page 3, lines 24-29 as follows:

(a) irradiating said material ... through a first mask (**the mask of Fig. 4**), wherein the first mask has a clear region and a non-clear region, wherein the clear region comprises an array of elongated sub-regions (**array of rectangles 410M**); and

(b) irradiating said material with said radiation through a second mask (**the mask of Fig. 6**) ... wherein the clear region of the second mask comprises a plurality of strips (**610**), each strip (**610**) covering the position of a column of the elongated sub-regions (**column of rectangles 410M**) of the first mask.

Any questions regarding this case can be addressed to the undersigned at the telephone number below.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on January 12, 2004.

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